

the problem. It just passes the debt on to people who have responsibly paid off their student loans, while encouraging the reckless spending on administrative bloat in higher education.

From 1988 to 2018, the average tuition and fees at public 4-year institutions tripled and more than doubled at private 4-year institutions. We have seen an explosion of vice presidents, counselors, diversity coaches, and all types of administrative staff who have nothing to do with giving their students a means of finding employment.

Why? Because they can. The money flows freely from the Federal Government, and they know that—all at the expense of the student.

So rather than climbing walls, lazy rivers, and so-called safe spaces and then asking for bailouts, universities should be cutting costs and focusing on educating their students. This frivolous spending has ruined many young people's futures, and that is how we address the calamity of student debt.

COVID-19 RELIEF

(Ms. SLOTKIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because the American people and the people of Michigan need our help. They need Congress to pass a COVID relief package, and failing to reach a deal would be a shameful dereliction of duty here in the Congress.

Just yesterday, my State confirmed its 10,000th death. I have hospitals in my district that are at 98 percent capacity, and local businesses face oblivion.

The images of Americans in their cars lining up for hours to pick up their Thanksgiving meal should be seared into our memories. Make no mistake. These food lines are modern-day bread lines, and it is our job to do something about it.

Platitudes won't feed a family, and empty words won't get folks together for the holidays. Frankly, it is a slap in the face to ICU nurses, our small business owners, and frontline workers doing everything they can do to weather the crisis.

It is a slap in the face to the nurse in East Lansing who wrote to my office pleading for economic relief. Her husband had to stop working in the spring to take care of their kids, and every day she gets up worried she might bring COVID home to them. They are getting behind on their bills, on their rent, and they are taking out loans against their retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the leaders of both parties and of both Chambers to witness these stories, do their jobs, and reach a deal, even if it is not perfect.

FAREWELL TO MAJOR JEREMY TILLMAN

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for Major Jeremy E. Tillman, who has been serving in the Washington office of the Second Congressional District of South Carolina from the Army for the past year as a Defense fellow.

Major Tillman has been deployed twice: to the Republic of Korea and to Iraq. He is the recipient of the Purple Heart, the Bronze Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Medal, the Combat Action Badge, the Army Commendation Medal, and many other deserved awards.

Major Tillman has been essential to the office over the past year. He has worked to solidify important legislation in the National Defense Authorization Act, NDAA, including modification of body armor for female troops.

I am thankful for his commitment to America. I wish him well and the best for his future.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

I appreciate President Donald Trump as a champion for our military for peace through strength.

CONGRATULATING RABBI SERNOVITZ

(Mrs. MCBATH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I am so excited to be here on the floor today to congratulate Rabbi Larry Sernovitz on becoming the senior rabbi of Temple Kol Emeth in Marietta, Georgia.

In just the few short months that I have known the rabbi, he has been instrumental in helping to spread our shared message of God's love for all people and tikkun olam.

"Tikkun olam" translates to "repair of the world," and I know that, together, our community in Georgia will help build bridges to a better and more just tomorrow.

I congratulate the rabbi on his new mission from God. Our community is blessed to have been gifted a leader like him.

I hope that, if he or his congregation ever need assistance from my office, they don't hesitate to call upon us. I truly look forward to working with the rabbi and the Jewish community in Georgia for many years to come, and I wish them all a happy and blessed Hannukah season.

FAREWELL SHUWANZA GOFF

(Mr. MCCARTHY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, having served as both the majority and minority floor leader, I have understood the pressure of the job. Scheduling the floor, handling procedural fights, and

getting legislation passed is truly 24-hour, 7-day-a-week work. And on the other side of the aisle, no one knows that better than Shuwanza Goff.

It has been my privilege to get to know her during her 12 years on the Hill, the last 7 of which as floor director for Leader HOYER. Without a doubt, she has done this job as well as or better than any staffer I have ever known. She has put in her time and effort to build strong working relationships with Members and staff on both sides of the aisle.

Shuwanza has earned our respect because of her skills, her work ethic, and her expertise on the floor. There are times I have lost the debate because of her expertise.

I certainly like to think that we have tested her abilities over the past 2 years with some of our motions to recommit. There are times that I have heard, and it has been conveyed to me, the differences of opinion with me in the strongest of terms, but never did she ever do it in a personal way.

The House is better because of her service.

But even if we haven't made her job easy, we always knew we had to be prepared, because we saw the impact that her expertise could have.

Many a time to many of us, people across this country ask if we have friends on both sides of the aisle. I refer to Shuwanza as my friend. She will be my adversary, but she is my friend. She has my respect because she earned it. She has my friendship because she has earned it. She has respect from both sides of the aisle because of the way she carries her life and the character of who she is.

She has left an impression on this side of the aisle, and I can tell you she has certainly left an impression on this institution.

We get elected and we come here, but her character is one of having a servant's heart and of caring for this Nation. There are things that divide us in our philosophy, but we are not divided because we are Americans. We do not divide ourselves because we care to serve.

I know Shuwanza believes in a more perfect Union because of the devotion that she has had and despite the times and frustration that this body can give, but she does it because of what she believes in.

Finally, Shuwanza, speaking as a father, I know that you have brought immense joy and pride to your parents and to your sister along the way. I know they have rooted for you and watched every step of your career, a career that has seen you walk in the well of the House of Representatives on a daily basis and serve as a trusted adviser to our Nation's leaders, and you have done it well. My hope for you is that you do not give that up, that you continue to serve the Nation that you love so greatly.

On behalf of myself, my team, and the Republican Conference, I want to

say thank you. There are times I wouldn't say thank you that you beat me on the floor, but I respected how hard you worked at it. I am a better Member because you made me prepare more, knowing you were on the other side.

I thank you for your counsel and for your friendship. You will be missed on this floor, but we will still be friends.

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COVID RELIEF PACKAGE

(Ms. KELLY of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to implore my colleagues to come together and pass a COVID relief bill that will help communities that are still struggling to recover from this pandemic.

Since the beginning of December, over 150 people a day have died from COVID-19 in Illinois. Across the Midwest, heat maps are glowing red with the increased rates of transmissions and deaths. We cannot wait any longer. Families and small businesses are looking for Congress to act. Time and time again, we have seen the House take action, only to have the GOP Senate ignore the crisis facing this country. The increase in empty chairs around kitchen tables and vacant storefronts will only continue if we do not take decisive action.

Mr. Speaker, a recent study found that 1 in 3 African Americans know someone close to them who died of COVID-19. I fall into this category, as I lost my uncle in May, and I know many of my constituents do as well. Something has to be done. People need money now to meet their expenses. Businesses need support now to continue operating, and State and local governments need assistance now to provide services. Inaction is not an option.

Mr. Speaker, lastly, I say Happy Hanukkah to all our Jewish friends.

RECOGNIZING CUBA'S PRO-DEMOCRACY ACTIVISTS

(Mr. DIAZ-BALART asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring attention to the brave action of the pro-democracy leaders in Cuba and the brutal repression that they face as a result of their demands for freedom.

For example, in the last few weeks, the San Isidro Movement has stepped up its calls for freedom and the release of all political prisoners. Their protests include such dangerous activities as poetry readings and sit-ins. And for that, these young rappers, artists, and writers have faced arbitrary arrests, harassment, and abuse.

Mr. Speaker, some remain in prison, which is why many activists have

begun a hunger strike in protest. But despite the brutal repression in Cuba, the pro-democracy movement is growing. Mothers, scientists, and so many others have joined its calls for freedom and the release of political prisoners.

I commend President Trump and his administration for their solidarity with the Cuban people in imposing serious sanctions against the Cuban dictatorship. We must all stand with the brave pro-democracy activists in Cuba, who are risking their lives at this very moment, and join them in their pleas for freedom and the immediate unconditional release of all political prisoners.

IN HONOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS DAY, FREE THE PANCHEN LAMA

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on Human Rights Day, we mark the adoption of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Mr. Speaker, 72 years ago, China was among the countries committing itself to the principle that "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights." In this spirit, I call on the Chinese Government to release Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, the 11th Panchen Lama.

In May of 1995, only days after Gedhun Choekyi Nyima was chosen to serve as the 11th Panchen Lama, the Chinese Government kidnapped him and his family. The outside world has neither seen nor heard from them since. Chinese authorities tell the world that the Panchen Lama and his family are safe, and they say that they are well, but they refuse to allow anyone to visit and verify his well-being.

Mr. Speaker, the Universal Declaration enshrines the rights to liberty and religious freedom and precludes arbitrary detention. China should honor its international obligations by freeing the true Panchen Lama.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHARLES ELLZY

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a very special human being, Mr. Charles Ellzy, who our community lost earlier this year.

Mr. Speaker, Charles was a proud graduate of Bensalem High School and Temple University.

In 1963, Charles met the love of his life, Rosia. They would go on to have two children, Samantha and Vincent.

Charles dedicated his entire life to bettering our community. He spent over 25 years working for the Department of Defense in Philadelphia, and Charles was also the president of the Lin-Park Civic Association.

Under his leadership, the LPCA established a community baseball league, organized fundraising events, and collaborated with Betz Laboratories to create the Lin-Park Betz Scholarship.

Mr. Speaker, Charles also served for years as a deacon at the Linconia Tabernacle Christian Center in Bensalem. His connection and love for God fueled his complete and total dedication to others.

And in August, the Bensalem Township Council unanimously passed a resolution renaming Warren Avenue to Charles Ellzy Way in his honor.

Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, I had the honor of joining Charles' family and congregants of the Linconia Tabernacle Christian Center for the unveiling of such a fitting tribute to an amazing man.

Mr. Speaker, we are extremely grateful for Charles' contributions, for his 80 years of life, and may the spirit of his generosity and service continue to inspire our community. Charles is now reaping the reward of a life he spent serving others.

RECOGNIZING COLORADO'S FIREFIGHTERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS

(Mr. NEGUSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my heartfelt gratitude to our Colorado firefighters and first responders.

This year in Colorado, in my district, we have experienced a devastating and relentless wildfire season; the Cameron Peak fire in Larimer County, the East Troublesome fire in Grand County, the Calwood fire, and the Williams Fork fire.

With over a half a million acres burned, Colorado has experienced great loss, damage, and destruction. For months, our firefighters and first responders have worked around the clock to save lives, save homes, and to protect our communities. We know this work is not easy, especially in the midst of a pandemic, and we are so grateful for the service, the sacrifice, and the commitment of our firefighters, our first responders, our local emergency management officials and law enforcement in Grand County, in Larimer County, in Boulder County, and across the State of Colorado.

Together, we will rebuild and we will continue to work together. Thank you for your work. We are so incredibly grateful.

CONGRATULATING ROBERT E. JAMES, II

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Savannah native, Robert E. James, II, of